

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached herewith are 11 replacement sheets of Figs. 1-16 to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheets presently on file in the above-identified application. The attached replacement drawing sheets incorporate the changes required in reply to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006, and is not believed to add new matter to the original disclosure. More specifically, the figures have enlarged and handwritten reference characters have been eliminated.

Attachments:      Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 20, 2006. Claims 1-17, 19-45, and 47-55 are presented for examination. Claims 56-62 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 18 and 46 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into claims 1 and 29, respectively. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 13, 14, 19-21, 23, 27-31, 33-37, 41-44, 47-49, 51, and 55 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1 and 29 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 12, 18-28, 40, and 46-55 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claim 1, the base claim of claims 2-17 and 19-28, has been rewritten to include the recitation of allowable claim 18 and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112, discussed later. Similarly, claim 29, the base claim of claims 30-45 and 47-55, has been rewritten to include the recitation of allowable claim 46 and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112, discussed later. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 29 are now in condition for allowance.

The Office Action objected to the drawings because they allegedly did not clearly depict the structure of the invention and contained handwritten reference characters.

Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended the drawings, as necessary, to overcome the noted objection. It is believed that the objection to the drawings has been remedied, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

First, cancellation of claims 18 and 46 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

The remaining claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised on page 3 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 29 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion of page 4 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 101 has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 29-33, 36-39, and 41-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,810,828 (Lightman et al.).

Claims 6, 13-17, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lightman et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,193,721 (Michelson).

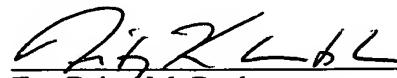
As discussed above, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 29 with the recitations of allowable claims 18 and 46, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 29 under Section 102(b) has been obviated. Applicant further submits that these amended independent claims are now in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, he is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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For Brian M. Rothery Reg. No. 35,540  
By Fritz Klantschi Reg. No. 50,333  
**JONES DAY**  
222 East 41st Street  
New York, New York 10017  
(212) 326-3939